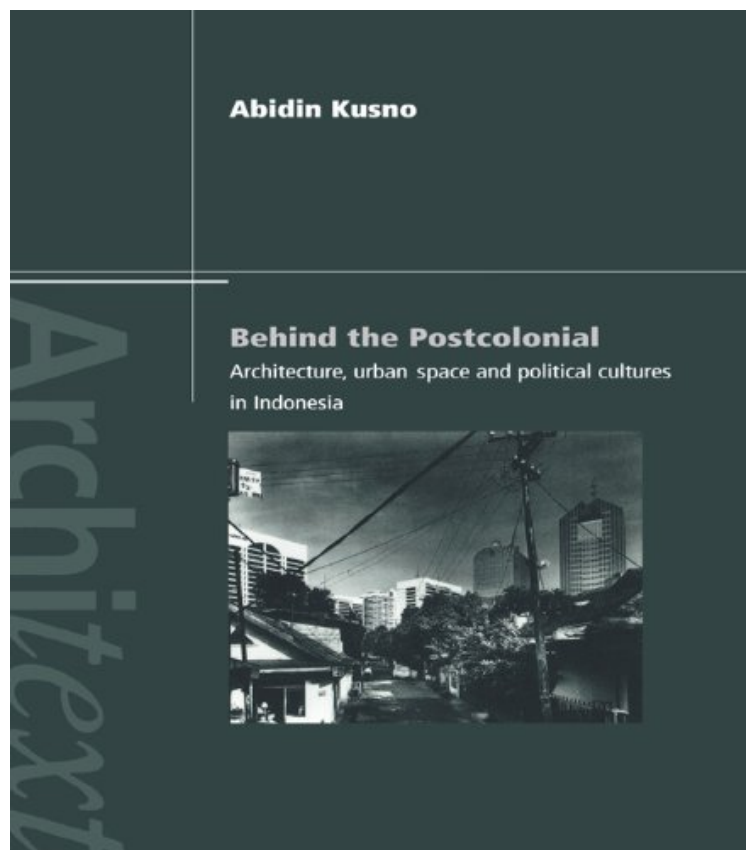


Behind the Postcolonial: Architecture, Urban Space and Political Cultures in Indonesia (Architext)

Abidin Kusno

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(Architext) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind the Postcolonial: Architecture, Urban Space and Political Cultures in Indonesia (Architext):

0 of 6 people found the following review helpful. somewhat disappointing By Sebastien Surun incredibly good theme; structure seems acceptable, illustrations usually efficient, quotations well chosen. But then it is so much about commenting the author's own intentions, and far too little about the subject. Writing three pages about what will be dealt with in the chapter, one more about the structure of the chapter, and two pages about what has been purportedly demonstrated on the chapter, is not enough for a 20 pages chapter that actually fails to demonstrate anything, but the author's ability to rephrase those he quotes.

In Behind the Postcolonial Abidin Kusno shows how colonial representations have been revived and rearticulated in postcolonial Indonesia. The book shows how architecture and urban space can be seen, both historically and theoretically, as representations of political and cultural tendencies that characterize an emerging as well as a declining

social order. It addresses the complex interactions between public memories of the present and past, between images of global urban cultures and the concrete historical meanings of the local. It shows how one might write a political history of postcolonial architecture and urban space that recognizes the political cultures of the present without neglecting the importance of the colonial past. In the process, it poses serious questions for the analysis and understanding of postcolonial states.

'A rich and detailed analysis of Indonesian politician cultures and their inscription and shaping in urban space. Yet, without its theoretical base, elaborating the politics of architecture and urban space, this important book could not have been written this way, perhaps it could not have been written at all.' Journal of Southeast Asian Studies
Unquestionably the most provocative assessment of architecture and urban design in Indonesia since Independence.' - Planning Perspectives
'Kusno has the merit of linking more traditional kinds of architectural and urban studies to one of the more pressing social and political issues of the day ... This is an illuminating work.' - Journal of Urban History